

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 22409 211453Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 INR-07 IO-13  
EUR-12 /064 W

-----115903 212036Z /44

R 211447Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3243  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 22409

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US  
SUBJECT: THE SPIRIT OF XMAS IN CAIRO--1977

1. XMAS PARTIES ARE NOT NORMALLY PROPER SUBJECT FOR REPORTING, BUT AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION LAST EVENING AT RESIDENCE HAD UNIQUE CHARACTER AND WARRANTS BRIEF COMMENT. IN ADDITION REGULAR EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN GUESTS, THE MEMBERS OF THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS TO CAIRO CONFERENCE WERE INVITED. BOTH DELEGATIONS ACCEPTED AND TURNED OUT IN FULL FORCE. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN CAIRO AND SPECIAL VATICAN EMISSARY MONSIGNOR MONTERISI WERE ALSO INVITED AND APPEARED. PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE MONSIGNOR OPPORTUNITY CHAT, INFORMALLY, WITH VARIOUS DELEGATION MEMBERS. (GENERAL SIILASVUO AND HIS UNEF COLLEAGUES WERE ALSO INVITED, BUT DID NOT APPEAR, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN AT RESIDENCE FEW DAYS EARLIER.)

2. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, WHO ARRIVED BEFORE ISRAELIS, COMMENTED THAT THEY HAD THUS FAR HAD VERY LITTLE SOCIAL CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS AT MENA HOUSE. IF THIS IS TRUE, THEY MADE UP FOR IT AND WERE SOON ENGAGED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 22409 211453Z

IN ANIMATED TALKS WITH ISRAELI COUNTERPARTS. THE TWO GENERALS, MAGDUB AND TAMIR, WHO IN SIZE ARE THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT, SPENT MOST OF THE EVENING TALKING TOGETHER. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY WORKED OUT HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO DRIVE FROM TEL AVIV TO CAIRO--BY CAR. OSAMA AL-BAZ ARRIVED LATE AND RUSHED UP TO ROSENNE AND SLAPPED HIM ON THE BACK AS THOUGH THEY WERE LONG-LOST

BROTHERS.

3. MONTERISI WAS ABLE TO CHAT PRIVATELY, AND SEPARATELY, WITH BEN ELISSAR, ABDEL MEGUID AND ROY ATHERTON.

4. FOR MANY OF THE EGYPTIANS PRESENT, THIS WAS THEIR FIRST DIRECT EXPOSURE TO ISRAELIS. THEIR CURIOSITY WAS EVIDENT. BEN ELISSAR WAS LIONIZED AND DID AN EXCELLENT JOB IN MEETING PEOPLE. IN FACT, HE SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN MEETING EGYPTIANS THAN AMERICANS. MEIR ROSENNE, PATIR AND CHEFETS ALSO OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED FRATERNIZING WITH EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN GUESTS. ONE YOUNG EGYPTIAN LADY TOLD AMBASSADOR AFTERWARDS THAT SHE HAD NEVER MET AN ISRAELI BEFORE AND DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM. IN ORDER MAKE LIGHT CONVERSATION, SHE ASKED IF HE HAD EVER BEEN IN EGYPT BEFORE. SHE RECEIVED RATHER SURPRISED REPLY, "NOT LIKELY."

5. HIGHLIGHT OF EVENING WAS BEN ELISSAR, ABDEL MEGUID AND MONTERISI JOINING IN THE CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND SEEMING TO ENJOY IT. THEY MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN THE WORDS, BUT THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AND PEACE WAS CLEARLY IN THE AIR.  
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO22409  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770476-0483  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771233/aaaabbei.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4f3416ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 162247  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE SPIRIT OF XMAS IN CAIRO--1977  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PDIP, XF, US, EG, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4f3416ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009